

TEACHING NOTES

Book title: Bee

Series: Bug Books

You are about to get up close and personal with a slithery, slimy, creepy-crawly minibeast! In Bee, you'll learn about the lives of these familiar and fascinating creatures through vivid photographs and simple text. From their favorite foods to the places they like to live, Bug Books will tell you everything you want to know about bees. A "Bug Map" will even show you the different parts of their bodies. After reading this book, you might just want to have an adventure in your backyard!



Text Structure: Compare and Contrast



Students will better understand the characteristics of the different types of bees by paying attention to how the text is structured to compare and contrast these insects. Have students use the reproducible graphic organizer to record the differences between honeybees and bumblebees. Read the first few pages of the book with students and model how you would record information on the organizer. For example, after reading page 8 you might write that bumblebees are the size of a grape and honeybees are the size of a peanut. Depending on the age and ability of your students, have them read the text and complete the chart independently, in pairs, or as a whole class activity. As an alternate idea, have students compare and contrast queen, drone, and worker bees.



Text Feature: Boldfaced Print

Discuss with students that, while reading, they will occasionally run across a word in boldfaced print. Explain that the author wants to tell us that this word is important to the text and that we should be sure that we understand its meaning. For example:

Think Aloud:

“When I read the word ‘drones’ on page 5, I thought that I knew what it meant, but I wasn’t sure. Then I noticed that the word was in bold print, so I looked it up in the glossary at the back of the book. That helped me to understand that drones are male bees. The author put the word in bold print to remind me to look up the meaning of this important word.”

**Comprehension Strategy:** Questioning

When students ask questions, they interact with what they read and attempt to clarify ideas about the content of the text. Discuss with students the importance of asking questions. Encourage students to record their questions using self-stick notes. Model the process first, after reading aloud on page 23:

Think Aloud

“As I read this paragraph, I wonder why worker bees push the drones out of the nest in the fall. I’m going to note this question and stick it in the book. The text might answer this question as I read further. If so, I’ll write the answer on the note. If not, then I might find the answer in another source after reading this book.”

**Word Study:** Context Clues

Have students read page 16. Ask them to determine what *nectar* means based on the information given on the page. Elicit from students that nectar refers to the sweet juice found in flowers. Encourage students to pay attention to all of the text surrounding an unfamiliar word because that text might help them determine the meaning of the word.

**Writing and Responding:** Picture Story

Have students draw a picture of a bee in its environment. Underneath of the picture, students should write a short story about the bee. They should include terms and information that they learned throughout the text.

 indicates a graphic organizer is linked to this activity.

NAME _____

